

ABSTRACT

A system for use on the Internet or other network to allow automated licensing of works of authorship and access to information about licenses which have been granted. A unique work identifier is issued to each of a large number of works of authorship, most of which are available on the Internet, but some of which are not. When the works are published, whether or not on the Internet, the unique identifier is included. The unique identifier leads to a web page where a user can accept an offered license to do one or more of: reproduce, distribute, perform, display, or prepare derivative works. The system then automatically generates a unique license identifier which is placed in each copy of the work prepared by the licensee. The license identifier leads to a web page which states the particulars of the license that was granted. This page, in turn, provides access to the licensing page describing the source work and it's offered licenses, and to the original work itself, if available on the Internet, or other computer network.